

WCC-APR 37th General Assembly 2018
In Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal,
Aug 29-Sept 2, 2018

“**Federation of Handicraft Associations-FHAN**” in collaboration with the Nepalese Government hosted, and organized the 37th APR General Assembly from August 30th – Sept 1,2018. The 4th APR Board Meeting was one of the other related activities held in Kathmandu-Nepal.

Every section of the programme was well organized, the Inauguration Ceremony, the Regional Exhibitions, the 4th APR Board Meeting, the stimulating Forum, the fruitful General Assembly and the Closing Ceremony.

Congratulations to FHAN and its team members for successfully organizing such a big event. Their commendable efforts were fruitful and appreciated by everybody. WCC-APR is proud of such active, reliable, effective member like FHAN.

The visit to the country of the Himalaya was a great pleasure and an experience for all participants to enjoy its incredible rich arts, crafts and architecture.

The event programs can be viewed in this link: [Programme](#)

30th August, 2018 (Day 1 – 1st half)

- **Inaugural program**
 - The inaugural ceremony was grand with the arrival of Guests, Chief Guests and National Anthem.
 - Welcome speech was given by the President of FHAN and Vice President of WCC-APR: Mr.Dharma Raj Shakya.
 - The ceremony was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Honorable Chief Minister of Province no.3, Mr.Dormani Poudel.
 - Speech was delivered by Dr.Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi, President of WCC-APR.
 - Other Speakers followed.
 - A book was launched “Introduction of Traditional Artist and Artisans of Nepal”.
 - Exchange of gifts/ presents as a token of love
 - The International and National Exhibition was inaugurated.
 - It was followed by lunch.

PHOTOS

30th August, 2018 (Day 2 – 2nd half)

- **APR 4th Board Meeting:**
 - WCC-APR 4th Board Meeting was held in the Banquet Hall of Hotel Annapurna, during the 2nd half. The attendance was good. Most of the APR Executive Board Members were present.
 - The agenda for the meeting can be viewed in this link:

- The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.
- Welcome Dinner

PHOTOS

31st August, 2018 (Day 3)

- **Symposium and Seminar**
 - It was organized by APR in collaboration with FHAN.
 - The theme of the Symposium was **“Positioning Crafts Within the Creative Economy”**.
 - The 3 International Speakers & the topic presented by them were:
 - Mr.Indrasen Venkatachellum:Crafts Development within the Creative Economy Framework
 - Mr.Ashok Chatterjee: Advocating the Creative Economy: India’s experience with the economics of craft industries
 - Dr.Kevin Murray: New models for craft sustainability: Ways of engaging with the “experience” economy.
 - The 3 National Speakers were:
 - Mr.Bishu KC: Present Scenario of IPR and Vulnerability to Artisans of Nepal
 - Mrs.Shyam Badan Shrestha: Natural Fibers-Future Prospects
 - Mr.Anil Chitrakar: Intangible Culture Heritage and Craft Industry
 - All the Speakers presentations were stimulating. Being planners, researchers, knowledgeable of the multi-facets of the crafts edifice, the speakers inspired the audience with their accumulative knowledge and experience.

PHOTOS

1st September, 2018 (Day 4)

- **WCC-APR 37th General Assembly**
 - WCC-APR 37th General Assembly was held in the Banquet Hall of Hotel Annapurna. We had a good quorum of National Entity Members. Many members (mostly from India) attended the assembly.
 - The agenda for the meeting can be viewed in this link:
 - Welcome address was given by the Chair, WCC-APR President, Dr.Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi and WCC-APR Vice President, Mr.Dharma Raj Shakya.
 - Dr.Kevin Murray, Senior Vice President of WCC-APR was appointed Co-Chairperson for the Assembly.
 - New members (38) were introduced by Sub-Regions and Countries and approved.
 - Final Revised Draft of Rules and Regulations of WCC-APR were approved.
 - WCC-APR President and Vice Presidents presented their Activities Report for 2017 and 2018.

- Reference document for APR Strategic Planning was discussed.
- The General Assembly meeting ended with the closing remarks by the Chair, and
- A Group photo was taken.

PHOTOS

• **Closing Ceremony:**

- A Farewell Dinner with Cultural Program was hosted outside the conference venue, in a historical cultural venue, in the Museum in Patan Darbur, Lalitpur Metropolitan City. It was organized by the Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Mr.Chiri Babu Maharjan.
- The walk to the Museum through the old city up to the dinner venue in Patan Darbar was thrilling. It acquainted us with the cobbled streets flanked with crafts' shops, the narrow roofed passages, the central old square surrounded with the beautiful traditional architecture, etc.
- The welcoming ceremony in the middle of the enchanting Patan Darbar was highly appreciated by all.
- Closing Ceremony speeches were delivered by the Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City: Mr.Chiri Babu Maharjan, President of Lalitpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry: Mr.Krishna Lal Maharjan, WCC-APR President: Dr.Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi and the Vice President of WCC-APR and President of FHAN: Mr.Dharma Raj Shakya,
- We got the opportunity to admire and enjoy the Nepali dance performed by young Nepali artists.
- The historical cultural venue in the Museum's premises, the delicious traditional Nepalese dinner were a formidable experience for all of us to remember.

PHOTOS

2nd September, 2018 (Day 5)

- Optional Tours for those interested were :
 - Chitwan/ Sauraha
 - Lumbini
 - Pokhara
 - Jomsom / Muktinath
 - Kailash / Mansarovar
 - Mountain Flight

PHOTOS